

RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970.

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MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
(as at December, 1970)

Chairman: Councillor Maj. Gen. D.D.C. Tulloch
Vice-Chairman: Councillor G.F. Kunkler

Councillor C.G. Buckland	Councillor R.J. Butler
Councillor F.V.G. Davies	Councillor J.S. Haines
Councillor M.B. Nicol	Councillor Mrs. B.G. Osborne
Councillor A.W. Sadler	Councillor R.N. Swanton
Councillor J.A. Whitmarsh	(Chairman of the Council)
Councillor Brig. G. Wort, C.B.E., D.L. (Vice-Chairman of the Council)	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

F.D.F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Clerk (M.O.H. Office):

Miss G.M. Boswell

Council Offices, 1 The Green, Marlborough.
Tel: Marlborough 2487 and 2474

Senior Public Health Inspector:

T.F. Harding, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

H.W. Gillian, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

L.T. Jones

Rodent Operator:

P.N. Raisey

Clerk (R.D.C. Office)

Miss S. Baker

Shorthand/Typist (Part-time)

Mrs. G. Chave

Public Health Department, Council Offices,
The Old Rectory, Pewsey, Wilts.
Tel: Pewsey 2261/2/3

The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for the Borough of Marlborough, and the Rural Districts of Amesbury, and Marlborough and Ramsbury. These combined districts have a population of 75,330 and an area of 235,289 acres. They have appointed a Joint Committee, the East Wilts (United Districts) Joint M.O.H. Committee to deal with all matters relating to the office of Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer of Health also performs duties for the Wiltshire County Council under the National Health Service, Education and Mental Health Acts.

East Wilts (United Districts) Joint M.O.H. Office,
1, The Green,
Marlborough.

Tel: Marlborough 2487/2474

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1970, which is compiled on similar lines as last year to comply with the requirements of the Department of Health and Social Security. I am grateful to Mr. Harding, the Senior Public Health Inspector, for his report which is included. I am also indebted to Dr. Lycett, the County Medical Officer, for supplying details of immunisation procedures.

The Rural District with the Parish of Pewsey situated close to its centre, at a distance of seven miles south of Marlborough, is very largely concerned with agriculture and agricultural pursuits. However, it also contains large Ministry of Defence establishments wherein a considerable number of civilian residents find their employment. The district is traversed for a great deal of its extent by the River Avon and its twin sources, together with its tributary the River Bourne. The countryside is extremely rich in pre-historic remains, contains many villages which are extremely picturesque, and has a considerable attraction for visitors.

During the year the general health of the district has given little cause for concern. The Registrar General's mid-year population figure of 26,150 shows a slight increase, but this is at variance with the census figure which is 3,605 lower. The reason for this is pure speculation, but it seems that similar low census figures apply in some other areas of the County, which have all one thing in common, a military presence. The total number of births, 580 show an increase of thirteen, and deaths 186, an increase of twenty. The natural increase, excess of births over deaths, amount to 394. The illegitimate birth rate of five per cent based on twenty-seven births, the same as last year, gives a rate of three per cent less than the national average, but still high in comparison with birth rates in other years for this district.

The increase in the number of deaths is mainly due to cancer of the lung, and coronary heart disease. It can be said with almost complete certainty that of the thirteen deaths from lung cancer, three of whom were women, all were due to cigarette smoking. It seems unlikely that there is anyone in this country who does not know by this time that it is considered for practical reasons that the cause of lung cancer is cigarette smoking. There may be a few, however, who are not aware that there is any connection with coronary heart disease and lung diseases generally, with particular reference to chronic bronchitis. So I again make no apology for referring to the hazards associated with cigarette smoking. At the time of writing we have behind us the second report from the Royal College of Physicians, and in my view as much publicity as possible should be given to their estimate that in 1968 of the 99,082 deaths which occurred among men aged 35-66 there were 31,000 premature deaths - almost a third - associated with cigarette smoking, and their reference to the effect that there is a steady and comparatively rapid decline in the risks to the individual who gives up smoking and remains a non-smoker. I feel sure that in the future there will be an increasing trend by the more thoughtful members of society to avoid enslaving themselves to this dangerous habit, which could result in smoking becoming unfashionable.

Notifications with respect of infectious diseases were almost double, and of these measles accounted for 197. This is now a preventable disease, and can perhaps as in the case of poliomyelitis, be almost eliminated by the vaccination policy. On the whole, parents are responding well, and most children are now vaccinated against measles on reaching their first birthday. Vaccination is now available too in respect of rubella (German measles) which is of significance in that it is a potent factor in producing congenital deformities in children born to women who contract the disease during their pregnancy. The present recommendation in this country is that all girls in the 11½-14 year age group should be vaccinated. There were forty-five notified cases of dysentery. Again these mainly occurred in the Tidworth area amongst children of Service families. One infant school in particular was mainly implicated, where the outbreak was contained as a result, I feel sure, of the hand rinsing regime which is now standard practice. It is significant that in the large nursery classes where, for some years now, a hand-washing routine has ensured that all children wash their hands as soon as they arrive at the class, no case was identified. These periodic visitations of dysentery would not occur if only one could put across the vital message of the need for proper attention to simple personal hygienic measures. Although a mild disease, dysentery is always a nuisance when it occurs, and, not infrequently in the very young child, results in emergency admission to hospital.

Unfortunately again action had to be taken under the National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47, to admit an old lady to Part III accommodation. These cases are always distressing, and statutory action is only taken as a last resort. Several other incidents during the year when I was consulted resulted in voluntary admission to hospital or Part III accommodation.

The figures for immunisation show a great improvement and must be considered very satisfactory in respect of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis.

Housing conditions are reasonably good, and are reported on in detail by the Senior Public Health Inspector who is responsible for housing management duties other than rent collection and council house maintenance, a pattern of organisation which, in smaller housing authorities, I very much favour. Unfortunately, although the number of urgent cases show a reduction, the pressure on the waiting list is still very great, and can only be dealt with by an increased building rate, particularly as there must be few houses now which have not been brought up to a satisfactory standard, a high proportion by the use of the grant procedure. I do not believe that there is any danger of over-building in respect of smaller accommodation designed for the elderly tenant, provided they are sited where communications are good, particularly as the rural 'bus services continue to decline, and I believe that in the immediate future building programmes should continue to include a high ratio of this type of housing. I am very glad indeed that the Council are making arrangements for further flatlet schemes at Tidworth and Burbage. The numbers of elderly infirm people are rising and it is important that they should, as far as possible, be enabled to live an independent life for as long as possible. A scrutiny of the housing list does not provide any real indication of the need for this type of housing, since in this instance demand and need are not necessarily the same thing. When it is not available other arrangements have to be made to care for old people in need, which leads to increased pressure both on the waiting list for the geriatric hospital as well as for Part III accommodation. With regard to Part III accommodation the present scale of provision seems unlikely to meet the demand in the foreseeable future, which can only be made more realistic if housing authorities generally provide for more grouped dwellings, and if more and better supportive measures are planned for old people living in this accommodation and outside it. In this connection I am glad to know that a great deal of the district is catered for by the meals on wheels service, and we are greatly indebted to the voluntary workers who give so much time to this much needed service.

The standard of food hygiene is reasonably good in an area of employment where one depends very highly on the part-time casual worker. Although the tendency in recent years to prepack food by manufacturers has been extremely beneficial there are still unfortunately gaps in our defences which are difficult to plug. One of these is the lack of knowledge often displayed by those in charge of catering establishments into the sequence of events which can give rise to food poisoning. Because of this a great deal of time by Public Health Inspectors must be spent in teaching basic hygienic rules during their periodic visits. I have always considered that catering establishments should be licensed, that the owner or manager should be able to produce some form of nationally agreed certificate of competence in relation to knowledge in the field of food hygiene. One appreciates the difficulties, but I do not believe that we shall make further progress in reducing the prevalence of food poisoning until something on these lines is implemented. It should be remembered that the true incidence of food poisoning is much higher than the notified figures indicate since most sporadic cases are unreported. Another major gap is the persistence of a reservoir of salmonella infection in our farm animals and poultry, mainly due I believe to the importation of infected animal feeding stuffs. I should like to see much greater efforts made to eliminate this problem, not only in this country but in some of the countries from whom we import meat.

I am very grateful to the members of the Council for their continued support, and for the kindness and co-operation of all the Officers of the Council in yet another year beset with difficulties and uncertainty, in which the shadows cast by reorganisation, both of Local Government and the National Health Services, have been major factors. I do hope that, as I said last year, these changes will not result in any significant disturbance in the relationship between the future Public Health Medical Officer and the Public Health Inspectorate. I hope also that every effort will be made to ensure that proper medical advice is available to the new District Councils. For this to be really effective advice must be available as at present, before it is asked for, and very often without members of the Council even knowing that such advice has been given, since a great deal is done at officer level in informal discussions. In other words, I hope that the present District Medical Officer of Health will remain in post, albeit redesignated and employed by the reorganised National Health Service, where he can continue to provide in addition to his advisory and other duties, liaison between general practitioners, the general public, local authorities and the new Department of Social Services.

Finally I should specifically like to thank Mr. Harding and his staff, Dr. Lishman for acting as my Deputy, Dr. Wormald and his staff of the Public Health Laboratory for their continued help and frequent valued advice, and my secretary, Miss Boswell for her help and co-operation, particularly for her work in preparing this annual report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area in acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	75,828
Number of Parishes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Population, Registrar General's mid-year estimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,150
Number of inhabited houses and flats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,429
Number of houses and flats owned by the Council..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,643
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1970 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£703,667
Product of penny rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,826

<u>Vital Statistics</u>							M.	F.	<u>Total</u>
Live births: Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	307	246	553
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	14	27
<u>Totals</u>							<u>320</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>580</u>
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...			22.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total births	...	...	...	...	...	...			5.0
Stillbirths: Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>							<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...			14.0
Total live and stillbirths: Legitimate..	...	...	...	...	...	...	310	251	561
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	14	27
<u>Totals</u>							<u>323</u>	<u>265</u>	<u>588</u>
Deaths...	...	...	...	...	...	...	106	78	184
Death rate per 1,000 population..	...	...	...	...	...	...			7.0
Infant deaths under one year: Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
<u>Totals</u>							<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...			22.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...			22.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...			37.0
Neonatal deaths (under four weeks): Legitimate..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
<u>Totals</u>							<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	...			12.0
Early neonatal deaths (under one year): Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
<u>Totals</u>							<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	...			22.0
Maternal mortality including abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...			0
Maternal mortality rate..	...	...	...	...	...	...			0.0

Year	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Infant deaths	8	10	9	10	13
Infant mortality rate	18.3	22.0	17.0	18.0	22.0

CAUSES OF DEATH 1970

Cause of Death						Male	Female	Total
B18	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B19(3)	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
B19(4)	Malignant neoplasm, intestine	...	...	...	...	4	-	4
B19(6)	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	10	3	13
B19(7)	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	-	4	4
B19(8)	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B19(9)	Malignant neoplasm, prostate	...	...	...	...	3	-	3
B19(10)	Leukaemia	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
B19(11)	Other malignant neoplasms	...	...	...	...	5	1	6
B20	Benign and unspecified neoplasms	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
B21	Diabetes mellitus	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
B46(1)	Other endocrine etc. diseases	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
B27	Hypertensive disease	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
B28	Ischaemic heart disease	...	...	...	...	31	13	44
B29	Other forms of heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	11	21
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	...	...	...	...	12	7	19
B46(6)	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	2	4	6
B31	Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
B32	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	7	7	14
B33(1)	Bronchitis and emphysema	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
B33(2)	Asthma	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
B46(7)	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
B34	Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
B36	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B37	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
B46(8)	Other diseases of digestive system	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
B46(9)	Other diseases, genito-urinary system	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
B42	Congenital anomalies	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
B43	Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	-	2
B44	Other causes of perinatal mortality	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
B45	Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	...	...	...	...	-	2	2
BE47	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
BE48	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	-	1	1
Total of all causes						106	78	184

Comparison with England and Wales

	Per 1,000 Population		Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Births (adjusted)	Death Rate (adjusted)	Infant Mortality	Stillbirths
Pewsey R.D.	22.9	9.5	22.0	14.0
England and Wales	16.0	11.7	18.0	13.0

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1970

	Total Cases	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of total cases in age group												Under one year	1 -	2 -	3 -	4 -	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 65	65 +	Age unknown
Acute encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute meningitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute poliomyelitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Anthrax... ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cholera... ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery. ...	45	-	-	-	1	3	6	3	3	19	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Infective jaundice ...	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	1	-	1	-	
Leprosy... ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Leptospirosis...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaria... ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles... ...	197	-	-	-	4	16	26	16	23	98	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia neonatorum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Paratyphoid fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Relapsing fever. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet fever...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Smallpox.. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tetanus... ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Tuberculosis, other...	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Typhoid fever...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Typhus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping cough..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Yellow fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Totals	260	2	-	-	5	19	32	19	27	124	17	5	7	1	2	1	2	2	17	5	7	1	2	2	2	-	-	

IMMUNISATION AND SMALLPOX VACCINATION STATISTICS 1970

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Measles and Poliomyelitis Immunisation

Year of Birth		1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1961-65	1955-60	Others under 16
Primary immunisations during 1970	Diph.	323	382	26	4	12	4	-	-
	Wh. Cough	322	381	22	3	6	-	-	-
	Tetanus	323	382	26	4	12	4	1	-
	Measles	1	139	100	39	25	24	2	-
	Polio	333	384	27	7	11	32	-	-
Reinforcing immunisations given in 1970	Diph.	-	79	172	17	67	94	15	-
	Wh. Cough	-	74	156	11	3	18	2	-
	Tetanus	-	79	177	19	70	100	25	-
	Polio	-	67	123	13	69	256	7	2

Smallpox Vaccinations

Age Group	Months				Years		
	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	-	2	1	10	309	5	12
Revaccinations	-	-	-	-	-	22	70

RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY

Council Offices,
Pewsey,
Wilts.

Telephone: 2261.

To: The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1970.

Members will note that this year a somewhat unusual format has been used in preparing the report. This is because a rather unusual document has come to light - a report to the then Local Government Board upon the sanitary circumstances and administration of the Pewsey Rural District in 1905. It is clear that, for some time previous to the writing of this report, the Local Government Board had been very concerned about the administration of the district, and in 1905 they evidently sent an officer to the district to produce a factual report. This report is, both directly and by implication, strongly critical of the Council of that day, and as we are now threatened by extinction, amalgamation or dismemberment within the next few years, I felt that it would be interesting, and perhaps amusing, for members to see some parts of this report and to reflect on how far the health and housing conditions in this rural community have improved in the last 65 years.

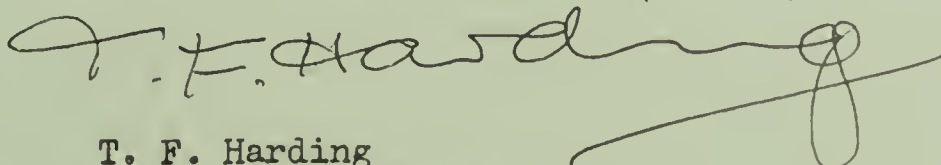
Members will find that we have set out various parts of this report on buff paper and have interleaved it in the appropriate place opposite that part of the report for 1970 which deals with the same subject.

I very much hope that they will enjoy reading it.

As a footnote, it is interesting to note that the population at the time of the report was about 11,211, and it has now risen to 22,545. It would certainly have been impossible for Mr. Ferris to cover the ground on his bicycle during 1970!

I would like to thank all the Members of the Council for their support during the year, and in particular the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the practical interest they have taken in our work.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,



T. F. Harding
Senior Public Health Inspector

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1970

1. Number of new houses and flats erected during the year

(a)	by local authority	45
(b)	private enterprise	52

2. Inspection of Dwellings during the year

(i)	Inspected for housing defects under P.H. Acts	4
(ii)	Inspected for housing defects under Housing Acts	2
(iii)	Number of dwellings found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	2
(iv)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	4

3. Remedy of Defects by Informal Action

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	3
--------------------------------------------------------------------	---

4. Action under Statutory Powers (Public Health and Housing Acts)

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 -

(i)	number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-
(ii)	number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices -	
(a)	by owners	-
(b)	by local authority in default of owners	-

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts -

(i)	number of dwellings in respect of which formal notices were served	2
(ii)	number of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices -	
(a)	by owners	2
(b)	by local authority in default of owners	-

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1970 (Cont'd.)

(C) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 27 of the
Housing Act, 1957 -

(i)	number of Demolition Orders made	1
(ii)	number of houses demolished as result of formal action	2
(iii)	number of undertakings accepted	-
(iv)	number of undertakings completed	2
(v)	number of houses where Closing Orders were made	1
(vi)	number of houses where Closing Orders were cancelled	-
(vii)	number of houses closed as a result of Closing Orders or undertakings	2

(D) Proceedings under Sections 42 and 43 of the
Housing Act, 1957 -

(i)	number of houses under which Demolition Orders were made	-
(ii)	number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-
(iii)	number of houses demolished due to Public Health Acts	-
(iv)	number of unfit houses purchased by Council and demolished as part of reconstruction schemes	-

(E) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957 -

(i)	number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-
(ii)	number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were cancelled, as a result of premises having been made fit	-

5. Housing Act, 1957, Part IV - Overcrowding

(i)	number of cases of overcrowded dwellings at end of year	3
(ii)	number of cases discovered during year	2
(iii)	number of cases abated during year	2

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	287
Drainage ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Movable dwellings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Refuse collection and disposal and collection of abandoned cars							...	1,478
Bakehouses and Factories and Outworkers				...	...	...	...	30
Visits made by Inspector re Pest Control				...	...	...	...	122
Visits made by Operator for Treatment ..				...	...	...	...	1,180
Visits made by Operator for Survey ...				...	...	...	...	658
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits (Schools, Agriculture, etc.)							...	98
Housing Visits under Public Health Act, 1936 ...				...	...	...	...	28
Visits under Housing Act, 1957..				...	...	...	...	34
Overcrowding and allocation of houses ..				...	...	...	...	1,064
Verminous premises ...				...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Housing Visits ...				...	...	...	...	99
Improvement Grants ...				...	...	...	...	224
Infectious Diseases ...				...	...	...	...	214
Slaughterhouse Visits ..				...	...	...	...	NIL
Visits to Butchers, Fishmongers, etc. ..				...	...	...	...	9
Visits to Grocers and Greengrocers ...				...	...	...	...	24
Visits to food preparing premises generally				...	...	...	...	13
Market stalls and delivery vehicles ...				...	...	...	...	2
Visits to licensed houses ...				...	...	...	...	20
Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds..				...	...	...	...	36
Milk Sampling Visits ...				...	...	...	...	156
Ice Cream Sampling Visits ...				...	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous Food Visits ...				...	...	...	...	25
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises ...				...	...	...	...	41
								<hr/> 5,915 <hr/>

"The Inspector of Nuisances is Francis William Ferris. For the performance of his duties as Inspector of Nuisances and Inspector of Plans of New Buildings, he receives a salary of £60 per annum, apportioned £55 to the former, and £5 to the latter office. The Wiltshire County Council refund half his salary as Inspector of Nuisances. He also holds office as Surveyor of Highways supervising the repairs of some 220 miles of District roads, at an annual salary of £60, as School Attendance Officer, at an annual salary of £50, and as Collector of Taxes, for which he receives about £7 a year. He does not hold any certificate from the Sanitary Institute or from any similar body. He was first appointed in June 1890, and has now completed 14 years in office. Prior to his appointment he had been a farmer, and had not had any experience of the duties devolving upon him as as Inspector of Nuisances. He resides at Woodborough, near the north-western extremity of his district, distant, in straight lines, some 8, 11, 12 and 13 miles from Netheravon, North Tidworth, Ludgershall and Chute, respectively, places on the southern and eastern boundaries of the district. All the above distances are considerably increased if measured along the roads by which the Inspector travels. The train service is of little use within the district, and Mr. Ferris is mainly dependent upon some conveyance, or upon his bicycle, for visiting the various localities. Inspection of his journals and of his record of nuisances shows that he deals with a number of nuisances, visits slaughter-houses, disinfects dwellings after infectious disease, etc., but, from actual inspection of the district, it would appear that the cases dealt with form only a small proportion of those nuisances which ought to be discovered, reported to the Council, and effectually abated. His books are submitted to the Council, the action ordered is recorded in them, and the Chairman initials them. The Council, however, does not invariably take action on the Inspector's reports, and their inaction is especially noticeable in cases of overcrowding. Frequently, in such cases the note "no action" is appended; but the Council do, I am informed, take action when the overcrowding is due to the taking in of lodgers."

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION

"There is undoubtedly want of house accommodation adequate to meet the requirements of the population. This is due partly to an insufficiency in the number of dwellings, and partly to many of these dwellings presenting inadequate accommodation for the large families who seek to live in them. As a consequence cases of overcrowding are discovered from time to time. Such cases are, however, allowed by the District Council to continue in existence, that authority recognising the fact that action, if taken by them and followed up to the end, must result in persons being compelled to leave the neighbourhood, a step almost of necessity involving loss of employment to the breadwinner, and, possibly, difficulty in finding a new abode and work near it. And, indeed, cases such as these are not infrequently difficult to deal with in a satisfactory manner. The District Council, however, are not necessarily powerless to cope with the situation since, if the case is one in which private enterprise cannot be relied upon to provide any necessary additional accommodation, it is open to the District Council to approach the County Council with a view to obtaining the consent of that body to the adoption of Part III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. When additional housing accommodation has been provided, the District Council should take action against occupiers of overcrowded dwellings.

The structure and condition of dwellings in the district leave much to be desired. Very many of the cottages occupied by working men, and even many houses of a better class, have thatched roofs. In not a few instances thatched roofs were observed which were urgently in need of repair. Many dwellings are ill constructed, and are devoid of damp-courses and eavespouting. Not a few of the cottages are of the wattle or plaster-and-daub description, and some are much in need of repair, one, indeed, at Wilsford, occupied by Mrs. Durnford, being unfit for habitation in its present state. Apart from the question of overcrowding, there is opportunity for much improvement to be brought about in the condition of dwellings at the instance of the District Council."

HOUSING

As usual we are setting out below in Table A the position of the Council's housing waiting list as at 31st December, 1970, together with the equivalent figures for the same time for all the years back to 1963. Members will note that, although there is a substantial and welcome reduction in both the urgent and non-urgent categories as compared with 1969, the figures show that the waiting list is still longer than it was in 1963. This is of little surprise in that the Council completed less houses during 1970 than they did in 1969, but it does illustrate a tendency for population growth which now seems to be causing, and not before time, anxiety in Government circles, and to some extent answers a question which I am often asked, which is "why, after all the building that has been done, does the housing list not get shorter?". It gets no shorter because the population of the district is growing and there are more people to marry, have children, and want accommodation of their own.

TABLE A

Waiting List for Council Houses

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Urgent cases residing in district	105	102	83	101	102	75	135	108
Non-urgent cases residing in district	192	198	223	225	222	233	275	254
<u>Total</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>306</u>	<u>326</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>362</u>
Urgent cases residing <u>outside</u> district	25	10	14	14	12	11	19	12
Non-urgent cases residing <u>outside</u> district	78	60	62	69	96	97	125	111
<u>Total</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>123</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>370</u>	<u>382</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>416</u>	<u>554</u>	<u>485</u>

In last year's annual report we undertook for the first time an analysis of the housing waiting list showing the length of time that individual applicants had been on the list, and provided an analysis showing the principal reasons given by applicants for applying for accommodation. These are again reproduced in tabular form below with the difference that we have now been able to compare the figures for 1970 and 1971, and they are shown alongside one another for comparison purposes. These figures were compiled as at 31st July of each year. Table 'B' shows the length of time on the waiting list, and Table 'C' the reasons given for applying for Council houses.

Once again I would like to make it clear that the totals in 'B' and 'C' do not, and cannot, correspond with the total figure for 1970 shown in Table 'A'. This is because the two tables are necessarily prepared with a six-months' gap between them.

TABLE B

Housing Waiting List as at 31st July, 1971

Length of time on Waiting List

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Less than six months	110	116
Six to twelve months	133	71
One to two years..	111	140
Two to four years.	128	123
Over four years	96	104
<u>Total</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>554</u>

Members will note that the total number of applicants on the list has declined from 578 to 554, and that although the number of applicants who have been on the list from six to twelve months has been reduced from 133 to 71, most of the other categories have increased and, most significant of all, the number who have been on the list for less than six months has increased from 110 to 116. This, I think, tends to prove the contention that, although the urgency of housing cases is steadily decreasing, the numbers are remaining roughly static - (a) because there are a substantial number who we are not prepared to house because their need is not great enough, and (b) the list is continually being refilled by young couples getting married, having children, moving in with their parents, etc., etc. This pattern will inevitably continue as the population of the district, and of the country as a whole, continues to rise. As a result I can offer very little hope to those who think that before long the Council will be able to stop building houses.

TABLE C

Reasons given for applying for Council Houses

<u>Reason</u> <u>No.</u>		<u>Inside</u> <u>District</u>		<u>Outside</u> <u>District</u>	
		<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
1 *	Sharing house: (in rooms	4	-	4	-
2 *	(with parents	44	36	7	10
3 *	Living in a caravan with children.	13	9	4	7
4	Living in a caravan without children	8	7	1	-
5 *	Living in house too small for family but not sharing.	6	10	1	2
6 *	Moral overcrowding	1	2	-	-
7 *	Health reasons..	30	31	5	5
8 *	Under Notice to Quit from M.O.D. Married Qtrs.	9	3	5	3
9 *	Under Notice to Quit from private property ...	23	21	4	3
10	Possible Notice to Quit from private property	1	5	-	1
11 *	Difficult access with pram (flats)	4	3	-	2
12 *	Family with children in 'No Children Allowed' accommodation.	1	1	-	1
	Carried forward:	144	128	31	33

Reason No.		Inside District		Outside District	
		1970	1971	1970	1971
	Brought forward:	144	128	31	33
13 *	Unmarried couple with baby living apart from one another	2	2	-	-
14 *	Married couple living apart - lack of room ...	1	1	1	-
15	House without modern amenities	29	25	2	3
16	Tied houses including agricultural workers, and W.D. employees, but <u>not</u> those in M.Q.'s. ...	123	120	12	17
17	Tied M.O.D. Married Quarters.	51	29	41	54
18	Wishing to move into district for family reasons	-	-	32	39
19	Wishing to move into district for employment reasons... ..	-	-	17	17
20	Would like to move within district for employment reasons	3	4	-	-
21	Financial reasons.	16	15	8	6
22	No play space for children	1	2	1	2
23	House too large... ..	10	19	2	3
24	'Want a Council house' (no other specific reason given)... ..	7	3	4	-
25	Applicants waiting to get married.. ...	15	11	1	-
26	Temporary letting, feel insecure... ..	4	1	1	-
27	Settled in accommodation, but applying just in case	3	3	-	-
28	Isolated house	1	7	-	-
29	Moved to another address	2	1	1	-
30	Requiring Old People's Accommodation	6	2	6	1
31	Husband and wife separating, wife will have to leave M.O.D. Married Quarter	-	3	-	1
32	Husband killed in car accident, wife will have to leave M.O.D. Married Quarter.. ...	-	1	-	-
	<u>Total</u>	<u>418</u>	<u>377</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>177</u>

In this Table Members will note that those categories which are marked with an asterisk are those which form the Council's urgent housing list. To deal with these categories in turn, Members will note that there has been a welcome reduction in categories 1, 2 and 3, so far as cases inside the district are concerned, which is very satisfying as it is the young couples living in rooms and in caravans that have the worst housing problems. Members will also note that in category 17 there has been a substantial decrease in applicants living in tied M.O.D. married quarters inside the district, although there has been an increase amongst those living outside the district. Similarly there has been an equally welcome reduction in the numbers who are under Notice to Quit from married quarters and from private property, although I think it may well be that these figures are not particularly significant. Members will note that the number of applicants under category 23 who consider that their houses are too large for them has almost doubled, and there has been a significant increase in those who consider that the houses in which they live are too isolated (category 28).

Category 30, those requiring old people's accommodation, is not really of any great significance in that we keep a separate and complementary list of those who have applied specifically for grouped accommodation. It may very well be that on investigation a number of the applicants on this list in this category would be transferred to the grouped accommodation list.

Categories 31 and 32 are new this year, and category 31 reflects a new and rather sad development. During 1970 the Council were obliged to rehouse several servicemen's wives and families who had been abandoned by their husbands, and it is perfectly clear that in the present climate of opinion this sort of problem will increase.

SPECIAL HOUSING AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY

During 1970 the extension of the Council's grouped accommodation scheme at Ludgershall was completed, and this meant that two more one-bedroom 2-person flatlets became available for letting, together with six bed-sitting room flatlets for single persons, thus bringing the total grouped accommodation available in Ludgershall to 28 such flats or flatlets.

The Committee will recall that when Erskine House was first built, we had some difficulty in letting the flats, but this prejudice has been very rapidly overcome, and the eight extra flats were nothing like enough to meet the demand. As a result, the Housing Committee very wisely decided to build a further new grouped accommodation comprising 33 flatlets on a very convenient and central site in North Tidworth, and members will be interested to learn that we are receiving applications for this type of accommodation from residents at Tidworth before the first brick has been laid.

At Aston House, Pewsey, the Council's other grouped accommodation, a further seven two-person bungalows were completed. These are detached from the main block of grouped accommodation flatlets, but are serviced by the warden of that grouped accommodation, and have been equipped with the sophisticated inter-communication system used in the main block. It is becoming increasingly clear that this type of accommodation, with varying degrees of warden supervision is certainly the pleasantest, cheapest and most practical way of ensuring that elderly people are properly looked after during their declining years, and I would like to pay a particular tribute to the wardens of our grouped accommodations and bungalow schemes for the way in which they look after the tenants.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The usual table showing the numbers and types of improvement grants approved during the year, and also extending back to 1963, is given below.

Members will note that the prediction that I made in my report for 1969 that the increased grants and freedom from restrictions permitted by the Housing Act of 1969 would result in an increased interest in these matters, is borne out, and we have the best figure for grants made since 1964.

During the year the Council delegated their powers to approve grants to me, and this has been extremely useful, both to the applicants, who now do not have to wait for the relevant Committee to meet, and to the officers, as the workload can be spread more evenly.

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>
Discretionary Grants approved	50	56	39	26	26	19	16	47
Standard Grants approved	14	12	11	9	14	20	17	11
Average total cost of discretionary improvement schemes	£851	£897	£867	£1,165	£867	£963	£1,346	£1,430
Average percentage grant	38.2%	36.9%	36.1%	28.3%	38.3%	34.0%	40.0%	46.8%
No. of houses improved during year by Standard Grant								15
No. of houses improved during year by Discretionary Grant								23

WATER SUPPLY

I am glad to be able to report that the end of 1970 saw the completion of the South Wilts Water Board's scheme for supplying mains water to the parishes of Alton Barnes and Priors, which hitherto had relied upon a farm supply which was subject to occasional serious pollution. It can now be said that, with the exception of one or two small isolated groups of houses and individual houses which it would not be economical to serve, and the supply to Wootton Rivers, which will be changed in 1971, the great majority of the district's inhabitants are supplied with mains water from satisfactorily sited and managed sources.

Although we are no longer responsible for the supply of water, we still continue to keep a close eye on its state of purity as delivered to the consumer, and the usual table showing the sample results obtained is given below.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES - SAMPLE RESULTS

Netheravon, Enford, Upavon, Charlton, Rushall, Manningfords, North Newnton, Pewsey, Woodborough, Wilcot, Burbage, Milton Lilbourne, Easton Royal, Collingbourne Kingston and Ducis.	Chlorinated supply from boreholes owned by the South Wilts Water Board. pH value 7.9. Total hardness 199 p.p.m. 47 bacteriological samples taken. 1 non-faecal pollution.
Ludgershall, Chutes	Chlorinated water purchased in bulk from Southampton Corporation Waterworks. pH value 7.5. Total hardness 235 p.p.m. 43 bacteriological samples taken. All satisfactory.
Wootton Rivers	Chlorinated supply from deep well. pH value 7.1. Total hardness 285 p.p.m. 39 bacteriological samples taken. All satisfactory.
North Tidworth	Chlorinated water from War Department source. pH value 7.5. Total hardness 210 p.p.m. 41 bacteriological samples taken. All satisfactory.
Everleigh	Chlorinated water from War Department source. 41 bacteriological samples taken. All satisfactory.
Altons	Private supply, not chlorinated. 40 bacteriological samples taken. 35 satisfactory. 4 non-faecal pollution. 1 faecal pollution. (All samples taken prior to the changeover to South Wilts Water Board supply).

The table which follows shows the mode of supply to dwellings in the district:-

PARISH	Number of dwellings supplied from public mains		Population supplied from public mains		
	Inside the dwelling	By Standpipe	Inside the dwelling	By Standpipe	
Alton	2	-	6	-	Private piped supply.
Burbage	390	2	858	4.4	
Charlton	14	-	51.3	-	
Chute	84	1	252	3	
Chute Forest	32	-	83.7	-	
Collingbourne Ducis	201	-	522.2	-	
" Kingston	103	1	358.5	3	
Easton Royal	86	-	195.3	-	
Enford	206	4	638.4	12.4	
Everleigh	63	-	206.6	-	Ministry of Defence supply.
Fittleton	92	-	294.2	-	
Huish	1	-	2.4	-	Private piped supply.
Ludgershall	(803	-	2,649.5	-	Public supply.
	(70	-	231	-	Ministry of Defence supply.
Manningford	139	2	361	6	
Milton Lilbourne	122	-	366	-	
Netheravon	338	-	1,272	-	
North Newnton	131	3	303.5	7.5	
North Tidworth	(268	-	1,179	-	Council Estate
	(2,072	-	9,137.6	-	Private and Ministry of Defence lettings
					Ministry of Defence supply.
Pewsey	815	1	2,363.4	2.9	
Rushall	11	-	33	-	
Upavon	(279	-	947.5	-	Public supply.
	(231	-	724	-	Ministry of Defence supply.
Wilcot	197	-	531	-	
Wilsford	7	-	21	-	
Woodborough	98	2	245	5	
Wootton Rivers	80	-	180	-	

WATER SUPPLY

"With the exception of certain surface springs supplying shallow dipping places, several of which exist in the vicinity of Pewsey, the water supply of the District is derived from wells. In Pewsey, the Vale of Pewsey generally (as at Wilcot, Woodborough, Wilsford, and Milton Lilborne), also along the Christchurch Avon Valley (as at Upavon, Enford, Fittleton, and Netheravon), these wells are, as a rule, shallow surface wells, the water rising commonly to within a few feet of the ground level. On the other hand, in the Bourne Valley, at the villages of Burbage, and the two Collingbournes the wells are deep wells sunk in the Chalk to a depth of 90 feet, or 100 feet, or even more; as also are wells at Ludgershall. Even the deep wells, however, are not so constructed as to prevent ingress of surface or topsoil water.

The wells are generally steined with "dry" brick, or rubble stone, from the ground surface to the upper surfaces of the strata through which they are sunk, viz., the Greensand in the Vale of Pewsey, or the Chalk in other parts of the district. Many wells are covered and fitted with ordinary pumps, but the majority are draw wells, and are often fitted with windlasses. Most of the deeper wells are draw wells, but a few of them are fitted with deep-well force-pumps.

Occasionally the wells are situated beneath buildings or dwellings, and the water is drawn from them within the houses. Frequently they are sunk in back-yards, and in vegetable gardens which are manured to within a foot or two of the actual sites of the wells, probably in some instances with privy, or pail-closet material. Not infrequently wells may be seen in proximity to sources of probable contamination, such as piggeries, privy-cesspits, etc.

Sometimes the actual site of a well is not known.

It is obvious from the preceding particulars that much of the water-supply of the district is liable to dangerous pollution. Evidence, based on chemical analysis, as to the quality of the water supply is not available save as regards the villages of Pewsey and Ludgershall, where investigation of this sort has been made by Dr. J. Tubb-Thomas, the County Medical Officer.

"During the year 1902, Dr. Tubb-Thomas, procured and analysed samples of water from 100 wells in Pewsey. From his full report, which is appended, the following extracts suffice to demonstrate the exceedingly unsatisfactory result of his investigation:-

"Six waters were fairly good only three of these are near the standard of purity of the district and indicate some slight pollution in each.

"Ten waters were indifferent, showing more or less pollution (recent or remote) and coming close to the limits allowed in potable waters.

"Eighteen could only be classed as bad waters, all giving indications of pollution with organic matter of animal origin, and therefore unsafe "for drinking in their present condition.

"Sixty-six were very bad waters and quite unsafe for use for domestic purposes, and the majority might be classed as highly dangerous waters".

* * * * *

"I have no hesitation in saying that the present supply of the village with very few exceptions is unwholesome."

"APPENDIX II.

WILTS COUNTY COUNCIL

FURTHER REPORT OF COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH UPON LUDGERSHALL

Since writing report upon the sanitary condition of Ludgershall which was presented to the Sanitary and General Purposes Committee upon the 16th January, I have analysed eight samples of water from Ludgershall. These samples were taken by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ferris, and forwarded to the County Medical Officer in sealed bottles. The samples were as follows:-

- No. 1 - Public well in Winchester Street, Andover Road, the occupiers of about 30 or more cottages, including a milkseller, use this water.
- No. 2 - Private well upon the premises of Mr. Brangwin, baker, who is the owner and occupier. There is a pigstye within three yards of this well.
- No. 3 - Private well on premises occupied by Mr. Yates, grocer. There is a privy about six yards from this well. Premises owned by Messrs. Strong & Co., Weyhill Brewery.
- No. 4 - Private well at Queen's Head Inn, occupied by Mrs. Collins, owned by Messrs. Strong, Weyhill Brewery.
- No. 5 - Private well on premises occupied by Mr. Annetts, baker.
- No. 6 - Private well on premises occupied by Messrs. Lawrence & Co., bakers.
- No. 7 - Private well on premises occupied by Mr. Fred Perdue. There is an earth closet upon these premises. Seven cottages use the water from this well.
- No. 8 - Private well at Crown Hotel, occupied by Mrs. Conway, owner Mr. T.W. Hussey, Netheravon Brewery. The nearest privy is distant 25 yards from this well.

The whole of the above wells are practically of the same depth about 150 feet and one and all dry steiner, and they pass through no protective bed of impermeable rock or clay.

Result of Analyses of the various Waters in parts per 100,000:-

	No.1	No. 2	No.3	No.4	No.5	No.6	No.7	No. 8
Chlorine	3.85	2.7	14.5	12.9	2.2	16.15	3.15	10.0
Free Ammonia ...	.003	.1095	.002	.0025	.002	.002	.0005	.0025
Albuminoid Ammonia	.018	.027	.042	.0125	.013	.0115	.005	.007
Nitrites	None	Strong Traces	None	None	None	None	None	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	2.08	2.22	4.0	2.86	0.75	1.67	.57	1.11
Oxygen Absorbed ..	.039	.125	.076	.050	.032	.046	.0250	.0372

"There is some difficulty in fixing a standard of purity for the waters of the district. I do not think that either of the above eight samples could be taken as a standard or declared unpolluted. Waters from the same strata in the neighbourhood, where there is no obvious source of pollution, give results as follows: Chlorine, 1.3; Free Ammonia, .0005; Albuminoid Ammonia, .0015; Nitrites, none; Nitrates, 0.25. Of the eight waters above No. 7 may be considered the purest, but taking 2.2 even as the standard of the chlorine of the district there is evidence of some pollution, the albuminoid ammonia and nitrates are also indicative of slight pollution in chalk water. If this sample alone were sent it might be passed as a water of fair quality. All the other samples are clearly contaminated with organic matter of animal origin, and neither water should be used for drinking purposes without previous boiling. No. 2 could only be considered as dilute sewage, and not as a "drinking water". This is "highly dangerous" water, and the well should be closed without delay. No. 3 is very little better. The sewage matter in this well is more oxidized, but I can only class it as a dangerous water and unfit for domestic purposes. No. 4 is another very unsatisfactory water, and is contaminated with sewage products and unsafe for drinking purposes without previous boiling. No. 5 is not altogether satisfactory, as it contains an excessive amount of albuminoid ammonia, and from its position is liable to pollution. No. 6 is an unsatisfactory water with a very large amount of chlorine, derived either from urine or bacon washings, or similar animal sewage. No. 7: This is the best of the eight samples, but the chlorine is excessive and the well and its surroundings should be carefully examined for any possible sources of pollution. No. 8: This water is not satisfactory; it contains a very large quantity of chlorine, probably derived from the soakage of the large amount of urine usual to hotels and public houses. I have left the consideration of No. 1 to the last, as it is the chief public supply of the village. This water contained a large amount of suspended matter, a considerable portion of which upon microscopical examination was found to consist of fibres of hair, wool, cotton, etc., and other organic debris. There is an obvious source of pollution in the dirty buckets used at this well, and with a pervious strata the water can be contaminated from the open cesspools of the surrounding cottages. This well should be thoroughly cleansed, the sides made impervious for some depth, and the top of the well properly protected and a pump erected. The whole of the cesspools should be abolished and earth closets substituted.

(Signed)

JOHN TUBB-THOMAS,

County Medical Officer

County Offices, Trowbridge, 26th January, 1901."

NUISANCES

"In addition to nuisances arising from absence of eavespouting, from absence, or from defective construction of drains, from improperly designed, defective or dilapidated privies and box-closets, and from dilapidations of, and overcrowding in, dwelling houses, which have already been referred to under their several headings, there are many due to the keeping of pigs in filthy pigsties. The belief, that pigs thrive best in filth, appears largely to prevail amongst the inhabitants. Throughout the district there is abundant evidence that nuisances, including recurrent nuisances mainly due to defective construction of privies, etc., have not been systematically and effectually dealt with."

"The removal of house-refuse is also incumbent upon occupiers, except in the village of Pewsey where it is undertaken by the District Council."

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

During the year the refuse collection service was again maintained on a weekly basis to all private houses in the district, and twice weekly to certain military establishments, by four vehicles manned by a labour force of 12 men. The vehicles are a 50 cu. yd. compression type vehicle, two 35 cu. yd. compression type vehicles and a 25 cu. yd. fore and aft tipper. This latter vehicle is due for replacement in 1971.

Collections were maintained to a very high standard of regularity during the year, and this reflects great credit on the collection staff who have been willing to work extra hours when the labour force was reduced by holidays and sickness.

Once again I have to report that the increasing amount of domestic rubbish is continuing to cause problems, and it is now noticeable that objects such as old and worn-out household furniture, car parts and appliances, etc., are forming an increasing part of every week's collection task. I am very glad to be able to report that the Council's practice of removing these articles at the point of collection has continued to provide a very useful dividend in that the hedgerows and laybys in the district have remained conspicuously clear of this type of debris.

As in previous years, one must express concern at the problems that have arisen over the maintenance of the large and complicated modern refuse freighter. It is very difficult indeed to get all of the work that is needed to be done carried out locally, and it is inevitable that the cost of bringing down specialist repairers will grow increasingly hard to bear. For this reason I am very glad that the Council have accepted my suggestion that we should write vehicles down over a period of five years instead of seven, as maintenance problems on these vehicles as they grow older become increasingly acute, and one is often compelled to spend far more on the vehicle by replacing an engine, a gearbox or the compression mechanism in the last two years of its life than the vehicle is worth on the market.

In my report for 1969 I commented on the difficulties that heavy goods vehicles licensing was bringing to us, and specifically on the problems of keeping adequately qualified drivers. This has been particularly noticeable during the year, and I very much regret that two rather expensive efforts to train drivers locally have not borne fruit. This is one of the reasons why I have been so anxious to negotiate a productivity agreement with the man so that we can, perhaps, run a smaller number of vehicles and pay our drivers more, as we must remain competitive with private haulage concerns who are not faced by restrictions of the kind which face local authorities in paying their men 'over the rate'. Although the preparation of this productivity agreement will involve the department in a very considerable amount of extra work, I am confident that the results will justify the time and effort involved.

The Council's plastic sack collection system continued to grow at a steady rate and by the end of the year 1,184 houses and flats had been equipped to operate this much improved system of refuse storage.

Only five abandoned cars were removed to the tip during 1970, a substantial reduction on previous years. Ironically there is no doubt that our possession of heavy equipment capable of removing these unsightly and dangerous vehicles acts as a deterrent to those who may be minded to abandon them. The sure knowledge that the vehicle concerned will be noticed and removed as soon as the time allowed by the Civic Amenities Act has expired, and that if the transgressor can be found, he will be presented with the bill, greatly encourages owners to make their own arrangements with the local scrap dealers.

WASTE PAPER AND SALVAGE

I am glad to be able to report that the revised waste paper bonus system had the desired effect in stimulating the collection and baling of waste paper at the Council's tip, and as the figures given below show, the value of waste paper sold is the second highest figure achieved since the war. The total value of all salvage sold, including scrap metal and rags, is by a comfortable margin the highest figure ever achieved.

Whilst the figures quoted are a comparative pittance compared with the total cost of refuse collection, I do feel that there is everything to be said for schemes such as this in the interests of long-term conservation. It seems to me to be quite incredible that we should continue to waste our natural resources to the extent that we do when much of the packaging material with which the housewife has to contend could be recovered and put to practical use. I am certain that, in times to come, our children will look back on the present age as being the most absurdly wasteful since time began.

SALVAGE RESULTS 1970

	£. s. d
Waste Paper	916. 1. 0
Rags	82.17.11
Metals	-
Scrap Vehicles and other metals from Tip	337.10. 0
	<hr/>
	£1,336. 8.11
	<hr/>

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Work on the Collingbourne Ducis and Kingston Sewerage Scheme was completed ahead of schedule, for once, during 1970, and all that remains for the Council now to date is the introduction of the extensive and expensive North Western Parishes Sewerage Scheme, which, at the time of writing this report, was still under preparation by the Council's Consulting Engineers.

It is in this area, where the sub-soil is greensand, that the most serious nuisances continue to exist, and these are nuisances, moreover, which cannot be effectively abated without a mains sewerage scheme.

The Council's proposals to sewer the Parish of Wilsford and to take the effluent to the nearby Marden Works of the Devizes Rural District Council were approved by the Ministry during the year, and work should start on this scheme, which will be of great benefit to this small Parish, during 1971.

NOISE ABATEMENT

In my report for 1969 I referred to the difficulties which we have been experiencing in dealing with contractors' roadbreaking equipment. I was very glad that the local branch of the Rural District Councils' Association supported our contentions in this matter, and it is very pleasing to note that representations by the R.D.C.A. are to be made to the Government on these lines in regard to the amendment of the Noise Abatement Act.

SEWERAGE AND HOUSE DRAINAGE

"There is not a proper sewerage system in any part of the district.

At Pewsey the slop-sewage from many of the houses passes to one or other of two surface-water drains, which discharge, the one to a field ditch, the other to a stream. This stream flows, in part of its course at the backs of houses, and in part along the side of the main road of the village, and then falls into a mill-pool in the centre of the village. The roadside portion of the stream referred to has lately been covered in on account, I understood, of its offensive character. A third surface-water drain, which receives slop-sewage, runs by the side of the Savernake road and discharges into the mill-pool, as also does the drainage from the County Police Station, including that from water-closets. Slop-sewage also gains access to the stream at points below the millpool.

At Upavon open channels, partly of brickwork and partly of tiles, have been constructed along the sides of the principal road, and into these channels is received sewage from such of the houses in the village as are drained. There are two channels, both of which discharge directly into the River Avon. The expense of the above channelling was borne by the County Council for county roads, and by the District Council for the district roads.

Similar drainage - by surface channels - may be seen in other parts of the district, for example, at Burbage and at Ludgershall, and ordinary road drains are frequently utilized for sewage purposes when available.

House-drainage. Some of the better-class houses are drained to cesspools, the exact sites of which are not always known; a fact indicating that they are not emptied, and that their contents must therefore soak into the subsoil, or find escape to some road drain, ditch, or watercourse, by way of an overflow pipe. An instance of this kind was met with at the Bank in High Street, Pewsey. Drains communicating with the interiors of houses are not, as a rule, properly ventilated; indeed, good drainage, on modern principles, with efficient ventilation and proper disconnection from main drains, is scarce. In the great majority of instances, however, in which drains for removal of slop-water and other liquid refuse have been provided, these are entirely outside the houses in back-yards or in gardens. But these drains are seldom of a kind which can be commended. Their traps are usually of an unsatisfactory pattern, such as metal D traps, or bell traps, and are, moreover, not infrequently defective owing to breakage or to improper setting. Some good gulley traps are to be observed, but their number is comparatively small. Very many dwellings are entirely without provision for drainage, especially in the smaller villages and outlying places. In such cases slop-water is thrown on the ground surface, or on to gardens, or into holes dug in gardens, or into ditches or watercourses. I do not remember ever having visited a district in which such a large proportion of dwellings were found unprovided with drains."

"Excrement Disposal and Removal - Some of the better class houses are provided with water-closets. These vary in pattern, closets of the wash-out, hopper, and old-pan-with-container description having come under observation. Ventilation of soil pipes is not efficient, for the reason that, when attempts have been made to provide such ventilation, the vent-pipes are sometimes too small, and often have several bends in their courses. Flushing cisterns appear to be provided, generally, where water-closets are in use. A number of pail or box closets, frequently misnamed "earth-closets", though earth is very seldom used in them, may be found in different parts of the district. These are not, with possibly a few exceptions, properly constructed. The spaces below the seats are not lined and floored with brickwork and cement, or other impervious materials, the "risers"* are invariably of wooden construction, and the receptacles are usually ill-fitting buckets, pails, or even wooden boxes. Thus, there is every opportunity for fouling of the spaces under the seats, and for soakage of liquid excremental material into the subsoil. Apart from the few water-closets and so-called "earth-closets", excrement disposal is effected, throughout the district, by means of cesspit-privies. These are often erected over pits sunk below the ground surface, and lined with brickwork, less with the object of hindering escape of the contents into the subsoil than of preventing the sides from falling in. Frequently privies were observed erected over mere holes in the ground without any structural work below the surface. The privies are constructed of various materials, and wooden erections are very numerous, even those put up at the requirement of the District Council being, more often than not, of wood. Many privies are dilapidated, some almost in ruins. In these circumstances it is not surprising that excremental nuisances abound in every part of the district, and many samples were pointed out by me to Mr. Ferris, the Inspector of Nuisances, as cases in which he should at once take action in the way of reporting to the District Council and asking for instructions to serve on the owners notices requiring reconstruction. The dangerous proximity of certain privies to wells supplying water for domestic use has already been mentioned.

The cleansing of privy pails, boxes, and cesspits, is incumbent upon occupiers. The material removed is sometimes dug into gardens, sometimes disposed of upon agricultural land."

*By the term "riser" is meant the front vertical part of the closet seat, viz., the portion extending from the floor to the underside of the front edge of the actual wooden seat.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

I regret to inform the Council that during the year under review only 93 visits were made to food premises of all kinds in the district. This is a reduction compared with the 110 visits made in 1969, and an even greater reduction compared with the 171 made in 1968.

It is fair to say that the standard of food hygiene in the district is generally good, but I must express my considerable concern that we have only been able to make this modest number of visits in this important field. It is, however, a reflection of the workload sustained by the Department, and I cannot pretend to hope that we shall be able to do very much better in 1971.

No serious contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found during the year, and there were no serious cases of foreign bodies or mould in foods. However, ten such cases were investigated, and where there was evidence of neglect on the part of either the manufacturer or the retailer, appropriate warnings were issued.

Routine ice-cream sampling was continued during the year, and the results are given below. As will be seen, they are generally satisfactory. It would be desirable to take a greater number of samples than we have so far managed to do, but, as the Council will realise, catching itinerant vendors in a district such as this is a very time-consuming operation.

ICE-CREAM SAMPLE RESULTS 1970

14 samples soft ice-cream - Grade 1

2 samples soft ice-cream - Grade 2

The following table shows the numbers and types of food premises in the district, and also shows the extent to which they comply with Regulations 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 (provision of wash basins and sinks):-

<u>Type and No.</u> <u>of Premises</u>	<u>No. complying</u> <u>with Reg. 16</u>	<u>No. to which</u> <u>Reg. 19 applies</u>	<u>No. complying</u> <u>with Reg. 19</u>
Butchers 10	10	10	10
Bakers 7	7	7	7
Fishmongers 6	6	6	6
Greengrocers 5	5	5	5
Cafes 7	7	7	7
Fishfriers 4	4	4	4
Food Factories 8	8	8	8
Grocers and General Stores 55	55	39	39
Licensed Houses and Clubs 52	52	52	52

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:-

1. For the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream	-	64
2. For the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream	-	1
3. For fish frying	-	4
4. For sausage manufacture and preparation of meats	-	9

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no Egg Pasteurisation plants in this district.

Unsound Food Condemned

The following food was condemned by your inspectors as unsound during 1970:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Lbs.
Food damaged by fire	8	0	0

Poultry Inspection

1. No. of poultry processing premises within the district	1
2. No. of visits made to these premises ...	14
3. Total number of birds processed during the year	72,800
4. Types of birds processed	Broilers and Turkeys
5. Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	2%
6. Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	600 lbs.

It should be noted that no evisceration of poultry takes place at the premises concerned; the birds are merely killed and plucked.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

There are only five premises in the district which are licensed to boil pig swill, and of these only three actually operate. All were visited and inspected during the year, and the premises and methods were found to be quite satisfactory.

MILK SAMPLING

187 milk samples of all kinds were taken during the year, compared with 208 in 1969. This gave a more than ample coverage of all the retailers of milk in the district, and it will be noted that there is now only one retailer of raw milk operating in the district, but although there was a welcome reduction in the number of samples failing the Methylene Blue Test for keeping quality, we did have, for the first time, a failure of the Ascheffenburg Test by a pasteurised milk sample. This milk was produced outside the area, and although a rigorous investigation was carried out by the local authority concerned, no satisfactory reason for this failure was ever discovered.

Members will note that, for the first time, samples of ultra heat treated milk have been subjected to the statutory tests. This milk is now much more widely sold than hitherto, and although it is dated for consumption, it is our experience that it is sometimes allowed to stay in the retailers' hands rather longer than is wise.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS

"Regulations with respect to dairies, cowsheds and milkshops are in force and bear date November 5th, 1900. The Register of Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk is not kept up to date. The last entry is dated January, 1898. Nine lots of premises in the occupation of four persons are registered. Two of these persons, it is stated, are no longer in the business, so that of all the numerous milksellers in the district two only are not liable to prosecution for neglect of registration. Of twenty-nine members of the District Council no less than five are milksellers, and four of these occupy unregistered premises."

"The Sanitary Administration of the Pewsey Rural District is complicated by the fact that a considerable part of it is War Office property, and is, therefore, held not to be within the jurisdiction of the District Council in so far as the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, and of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, are concerned. The Council, therefore, is not in a position to deal with unwholesome conditions of the civil population in this part of their district, or to exert control over occurrences of infectious disease there. The War Office, on the other hand, do not seem to have statutory powers enabling them to secure satisfactory administration in these respects. An illustration of the undesirable results that follow on this unfortunate condition of affairs is afforded by the following facts:- "Brimstone Bottom" is the name given to a large collection of huts erected by Mr. Lovatt, a contractor, in a valley between North Tidworth and Ludgershall, and occupied by navvies and other workmen engaged in building large barracks at Clearington Hill near North Tidworth. Recently a case of small-pox occurred among these workmen, and Dr. Rayment was called upon to remove the patient, but, not having any Isolation Hospital to which he could send the patient, and the case having occurred on War Office property, he declined to take action. Mr. Lovatt, therefore, had the case isolated in a tent on a neighbouring hill, and attendance on the man was provided by the War Department. The patient ultimately recovered, and the District Council was called upon to pay the expenses of his illness; but refused to do so. At another time a man died at Brimstone Bottom, and Mr. Lovatt met the funeral expenses, and then asked the Guardians to pay the costs of the man's burial. In this instance also payment was refused. Mr. Lovatt, feeling aggrieved, has intimated that he will in future take no similar action in like cases.

The administrative failure, of which this illustration affords an instance, is a matter of serious concern to the welfare of the inhabitants of the district; and, in their interest, it is to be hoped that the position of affairs which has given rise to it may be so modified as to ensure proper control of the conditions affecting the health of the community in the future."

Sample Results 1970

Samples subjected to Methylene Blue Test	121
Samples subjected to Ascheffenburg Test	148
Samples of untreated milk failing Methylene Blue Test ..	2
Samples of heat treated milk failing Methylene Blue Test	3
Samples of heat treated milk failing Ascheffenburg Test	1
Samples subjected to biological examination for presence of Tubercle Bacilli.. ...	4
Samples showing positive tuberculoses reaction	NIL
Samples subjected to Ring Test for presence of Brucella Abortus.. ...	4
Samples showing positive reaction to Ring Test	NIL
Samples of milk showing positive Brucella Abortus reaction on biological examination ...	NIL
Samples of sterilised milk subjected to Turbidity Test..	18
Samples of sterilised milk failing Turbidity Test ...	NIL
Samples of ultra heat treated milk subjected to Statutory Test	11
Samples of ultra heat treated milk failing Statutory Test	NIL

PEST CONTROL

219 premises were treated for infestation by rats and mice during 1970, a reduction of 38 over the previous year. This was not due to a decrease in the rodent population of the district, but to the fact that the rodent operator was ill for rather a long period during the year, and as a result, only the most serious infestations could be dealt with whilst he was away from work.

I am happy to be able to report that large-scale and regular baiting at the Council's tip has once again proved to be effective in keeping down the rat population at this site to a minimum, and I am equally happy to be able to report that there is, as yet, no sign of the presence in the district of Warfarin-resistant rats.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In my report for 1969 I noted that only 13 visits had been made in connection with the control of infectious diseases during that year, and implied that this happy state of affairs would be unlikely to continue. It did not, in fact, do so, and during 1970 we were heavily involved with an outbreak of Snigella Sommei centered upon schools in the Ludgershall and Tidworth area. This involved the staff in 214 visits, and there would have been very much heavier workload had we not been able to enlist the aid of the Army Health Department. It is apparent that, in an area which is so closely associated with military installations and personnel as this one is, there should be the closest possible liaison between the military and civil power, but I am bound to say that it took rather too long a time before liaison and co-operative working was efficiently established.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

At the end of the year there were 86 licensed caravans in the district, four more than in the previous year, as compared with 106 in 1967. The number concentrated on the three large sites (75) has remained the same. I would be happy to see a further decline in this total number, but I do not feel able to express concern over the increase in relation to last year because one is aware that all four of these caravans were licensed for special and temporary needs.

Problems arose on one large site which needed several visits to correct. The remaining two large sites are most admirably equipped and conducted, and from these we never have any trouble.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

41 visits of inspection were made in connection with the above-mentioned Act during the year, and the table that follows shows the number of defects found and remedied during the course of these inspections.

No Certificates of Exemption were applied for during the year; no accidents were reported during the year, and the defects found were much fewer in number than has been the case in previous years. This indicates that the impact of regular inspections has been useful, and I do not anticipate that we shall have much difficulty in administering this Act in the years to come, bearing in mind the generally co-operative attitude of owners and occupiers.

Tables A and C, also given below, are extracted from the official report made by the Council to the Ministry of Labour, and they show how the inspections were made up and provide an analysis of persons employed in the registered premises.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Inadequate cleanliness	0	1
Inadequate heating	0	0
Inadequate lighting	0	1
Inadequate washing facilities	1	3
Defects in floors, passages and stairs	0	1
No First Aid Boxes	1	2
Inadequate accommodation for outdoor clothing	0	0
Absence of Thermometer	2	2
Inadequate ventilation	0	1
Inadequate sanitary accommodation	0	0
Inadequate seating	0	0
Inadequate guarding of dangerous machinery	0	1
Abstract of Act not shown	2	2
Overcrowding	0	0

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises (1)	Number of premises registered during the year (2)	Total number of registered premises at end of year (3)	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year (4)
Offices	1	25	8
Retail shops	4	79	18
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	11	2
Fuel storage depots	-	5	1
<u>TOTALS</u>	5	122	30

TABLE C - ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN
REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	57
Retail shops	284
Wholesale departments, warehouses	52
Catering establishments open to public	5
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	30
<u>Total</u>	428
<u>Total Males</u>	209
<u>Total Females</u>	219

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1970 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF PEWSEY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

- 1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecu- ted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	30	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	46	30	-	-

- 2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable tempera- ture (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)By H.M. Inspector (5)		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices Served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing) Making Apparel) etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	1	-	-	-	-	-

